


S-21  
William W. Johnston House  
Princess Anne  
private

1834-1835

Clearly considered one of the best detailed of the Federal style houses in Princess Anne, the William W. Johnston house occupies a prominent corner at the intersection of South Somerset and Antioch avenues. The two-story frame house, erected on a one-and-a-half acre parcel on the southern periphery of Princess Anne at the time, was oriented with its fine gable-front facing town, in the same manner as East Glen and the Teackle Mansion. The north facade is distinguished by an elaborate classical entrance with an arched fanlight, while the pedimented gable end is finished with rows of modillions. Centered within the pediment is an arched window. Identical moldings around the front door are found at "Linden Hill." Inside, a generous transverse hall stretches across the front of the house, while two large rooms are located behind. The interior woodwork follows a mixture of late Federal and Greek Revival styles which reflects the 1830s date of construction.

William Johnston and his wife, Rosina, purchased the corner lot from John and Sally E. Dennis of "Beckford" in November of 1834 for \$450, a sum that would not have included the house. Presumably, within the year, the Johnstons hired local carpenters to erect their finely detailed dwelling. Traditions relate that after the craftsmen were finished with the Johnston house, they started on "Linden Hill." William W. Johnston was a prominent Somerset County merchant, as well as the owner of an important saw and grist mill in 1850. As a member of the St. Andrews Church he financed the construction of the bell tower in 1859. After Johnston's death in 1865 his wife, Rosina inherited the property for her use, after which the house and grounds were to be devised to Ellen R. Dennis and Emily Upshur Johnston.

1. STATE COUNTY TOWN Princess Anne VICINITY STREET NO. N. Somerset Avenue  ORIGINAL OWNER William H. Johnson ORIGINAL USE Dwelling PRESENT OWNER Mr. & Mrs. Richard Cooley PRESENT USE Dwelling WALL CONSTRUCTION Beaded Clapboard NO. OF STORIES 2½		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY  2. NAME Cooley House S-21  DATE OR PERIOD 1800 STYLE Federal ARCHITECT BUILDER  3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <div style="text-align: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC No</div> <p>This is a fine frame example of the federal style of architecture found in Princess Anne. The house has the door on the pediment end. It has a central door with a delicate Federal fanlight. The first floor windows are 9/6, the second storey ones are 6/6. Much of the window glass is old and bubbly blue. The pediment has a very delicate oval window. There are two chimneys at the rear, built into the wall, but with the brick showing at the first floor level by the omission of the clapboards-as is typical in Somerset County. The stairway in this house is hand carved and is a duplicate of that in the Peale Museum in Baltimore. A delicate cornice with carved modillions runs along the roof edge of the house.</p> <p>At present the house is deserted, and for sale, and in shabby condition. Some of the windows are broken and the lovely boxwood is overgrown. This is one of the finest homes in Princess Anne and should be maintained.</p> <p>The addition at the rear of this house dates from 1834.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    Interior    Exterior  Deteriorating -- deserted			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Paul A. Brinkman  DATE OF RECORD 1/8/67	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



William Johnston House  
Princess Anne, Somerset County  
Principal entrance  
1/85 Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Maryland Historical Trust

S-21



William Johnston House                      S-21  
Princess Anne, Somerset County  
North gable  
1/85 Paul Touart, Photographer  
Neg./Maryland Historical Trust



William Johnston House

S-21

West Elevation

Princess Anne, Md., Somerset County

Photographer - Paul Touart - 3/84

Neg./Md. Historical Trust





William Johnston House

S-21

Southwest Elevation

Princess Anne, Maryland, Somerset County

Photographer - Paul Touart - 3/84

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



COOLEY HOUSE PRINCESTOWN 5-21

(William Johnson House)



C 942

S-21

Cooley House Princess Anne

(William Johnson House)



S-21

COOLEY HOUSE

PRINCESS ANNE

(William Johnson House)





Coolidge House - 1915

5-21

(William Johnson House)



S-21

Cooley House, Princess Anne

(William Johnson House)



Cooly House - Somerset Ctz.

S-21  
6  
5-

(William Johnson House)

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

1403 3/68



S-21 Cooley House

Photographed by  
G. SCH